

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the objection and rejections and further examination are requested.

The specification has been amended so as to make a minor revision thereto. No new matter has been added by the amendment.

Claim 31 has been objected as containing a minor informality. Claim 31 has been amended so as to address the informality. As a result, withdrawal of the objection to claim 31 is respectfully requested.

Claims 30, 31, 33, 36-42 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Coen (US 3,176,086). Claims 30 and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mitobe (US 5,111,510). Claims 32, 37 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coen. Claims 37, 39 and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coen in view of Stewart (US 6,373,957). Claims 37 and 39-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coen in view of Sugawara (JP 53-121613) or Henricksen (US 3,991,286). Claims 43 and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coen in view of Knowles (US 2,295,483) or Cahill (US 5,940,522).

Claims 34 and 35 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 30 has been amended so as to further distinguish the present invention from the references relied upon in the above-mentioned rejections. As a result, it is submitted that the above-mentioned rejections are no longer applicable to the claims for the following reasons.

Claim 30 is patentable over Coen and Mitobe, since claim 30 recites a loud speaker having, in part, a magnetic circuit having a yoke and a magnetic gap, wherein the yoke has an expansion provided at an outer circumference of the yoke, the expansion extending outward from the yoke, the expansion has a slot provided at an outer circumference of the expansion, and the expansion and at least one clip section couple the magnetic circuit and a frame. Coen and Mitobe fail to disclose or suggest the yoke as recited in claim 30.

Coen discloses a speaker 10 having a speaker basket 20 connected to a magnetic housing 14. The magnetic housing 14 has an exterior shoulder 26 on which a flange 32 of the speaker basket 20 rests. The speaker basket 20 is connected to the magnet housing 14 by the deformation

of a lip 24 of the magnet housing 14. The lip 24 is deformed such that a number of deformations 60 and V-shaped grooves 62 are formed, whereby the flange 32 of the speaker basket 20 is held between the deformations 60 and the exterior shoulder 26. (See column 2, lines 3-69 and Figures 1-4).

In the rejection, the exterior shoulder 26 is indicated as corresponding to the claimed expansion of the magnetic circuit, and the combination of the lip 24, the deformations 60 and the V-shaped grooves 62 is indicated as corresponding to a cut. However, claim 30 has been amended so as to recite that the expansion has the slot provided at the outer circumference of the expansion. As is clearly illustrated in Figure 3 of Coen, the lip 24, the deformations 60 and the V-shaped grooves 62 are all formed at a portion of the magnetic housing 14 that is completely separate from the exterior shoulder 26. In fact, the flange 32 of the speaker basket 20 actually separates the lip 24, the deformations 60 and the V-shaped grooves 62 from the exterior shoulder 26. It is apparent that the combination of the lip 24, the deformations 60 and the V-shaped grooves 62 is in no way provided at an outer circumference of the exterior shoulder 26. Therefore, the combination of the lip 24, the deformations 60 and the V-shaped grooves 62 does not form a slot on the outer circumference of the exterior shoulder 26. As a result, Coen fails to disclose or suggest the yoke having the slot provided at the outer circumference of the expansion as recited in claim 30.

Mitobe discloses a speaker including a frame 10 made up of a first piece 11 and a second piece 16, and a yoke 32. An outer circumference of the yoke 32 has a beveled surface. The second piece 16 of the frame 10 is attached to the beveled surface of the yoke 32. (See column 2, line 40 – column 3, line 5 and Figure 1).

In the rejection, it is indicated that the beveled surface corresponds to a cut. However, claim 30 now recites that the expansion has the slot provided at the outer circumference of the expansion. As is clearly illustrated in Figure 1 of Mitobe, while the yoke 32 does have the beveled surface provided at the outer circumference thereof, there is no slot in the outer circumference of the yoke 32. As a result, Mitobe fails to disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in claim 30.

As for (1) Stewart, (2) Sugawara and Henricksen, and (3) Knowles and Cahill, these references are relied upon as disclosing (1) a heat radiator for contacting a yoke, (2) a heat radiator for contacting a yoke and protruding into a space, and (3) holes in a coil bobbin that are

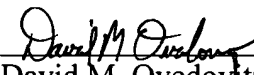
lower than a level of a damper, respectively. However, none of these references discloses or suggests the above-discussed features of the yoke as recited in claim 30.

Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 30-46 are allowable over the references relied upon in the above-mentioned rejections. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 30-46. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 30-46 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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